PRACTICAL OTOLARYNGOLOGY—Gervais Ward McAuliffe, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.I.C.S., Associate Clinical Professor of Otolaryngology, Cornell University Medical College. Landsberger Medical Books, Inc. Distributed by The Blakiston Division of the McGraw-Hill Book Co., 330 West 42nd Street, New York 36, N. Y., 1957. 320 pages, $7.00.

Unlike its prototypes, McAuliffe's "Practical Otolaryngology" designated as a handbook for the general practitioner, is not a standard abridgement. It is, rather, a well organized compilation of gleanings from many years of practice and teaching. Much of its value is derived from the unorthodox style of exposition employed by the author. This book offers a great deal of information concerning practical approaches to diagnosis and therapy of common otolaryngologic diseases. The presentation of this material is similar to what might be encountered in brief, intimate, clinical conferences in a postgraduate course.

While many of this book's virtues lie in its brevity, so do most of its faults; in many of the passages its conciseness tends to be misleading or confusing. The work is studded with categorical statements of a controversial nature. For example, Dr. McAuliffe recommends the use of novobiocin (referred to in the text by a trade name) in traumatic perforations of the tympanic membrane.

Dr. McAuliffe illustrates his material with his own admirable line drawings. More of these should have been included. Many of the other illustrations, especially the photographs of the "McAuliffe Aerosol Machine" and the "McAuliffe Wet Suction Apparatus for Treatment and Diagnostic Irrigation of the Tonsil," could well have been deleted. (An entire chapter is devoted to the "McAuliffe Wet Suction Apparatus." Since this device, which was originally reported by the author in 1931, has not gained acceptance by otolaryngologists, the inclusion of a chapter describing it to the general practitioner seems to be injudicious.)

Despite these criticisms, this book is recommended to the general practitioner, so much of whose work is in ear, nose, and throat. The handbook would also be helpful to medical students, interns, and residents in fields other than otolaryngology.

CHARLES P. LEBO, M.D.

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LUMBAR PUNCTURE AND SPINAL ANALGESIA—Second Edition—Sir Robert Macintosh, M.A., D.M., F.R.C.S. (Edin.), F.F.A.R.C.S., M.D., Nuffield Professor of Anaesthetics, University of Oxford. The Williams and Wilkins Co., Baltimore, exclusive U. S. agents, 1957. 142 pages, $6.00.

This eminent British anesthesiologist presents in his monograph far more than the technique of lumbar puncture and spinal analgesia. The early history of spinal analgesia is told in an interesting first chapter. In a chapter devoted to anatomy, the bony structures in the lumbar region are presented in a detailed and clear fashion. The various ligaments and the intervertebral discs are also accurately described. Both the cranial and spinal meninges, as well as the subarachnoid space, are discussed in detail, and clarified by excellent colored drawings. While there is a good description of the extradural space, and the important role of the latter compartment in relation to the improper spinal puncture or intrathecal injection, no attempt is made to discuss the gross or microscopic anatomy of the spinal cord, but attention has been given to the dentate ligaments, the anatomy of the cauda equina, and the position of the conus medullaris in the infant and adult.

The description of cerebrospinal fluid physiology is an oversimplified presentation based on the classical theories dating to the work of Dandy and Weed. The ventricular system, as well as the cranial and subarachnoid pathways, is very clearly illustrated. The composition, function, volume, and pressure of the cerebrospinal fluid are all discussed.

A separate 25-page chapter contains numerous drawings of anatomical dissections covering the entire spinal canal and the posterior fossa. There is considerable repetition, in this section, concerning points covered in the chapters on anatomy and the cerebrospinal fluid, but the illustrations are of excellent quality, and the accompanying comments by the author serve to emphasize important points.

The sterilization of the patient's skin, of the operator and of syringes, needles and drugs is fully outlined. A detailed description of the technique of lumbar puncture in both the lateral decubitus and sitting positions is presented, and this chapter is accompanied by a series of excellent illustrations depicting most of the technical difficulties that may be encountered.

In a separate chapter concerning the distribution of analgesic solutions, the author has described the effects of gravity, volume displacement, turbulent currents, and barbotage.

The problem of headache following both lumbar puncture and spinal analgesia is adequately discussed.

The final chapter, entitled "Do's, Don'ts, and Doubtfuls," contains a number of working rules concerning lumbar puncture and spinal analgesia which this experienced anesthetist has found to be of value.

This monograph does not describe cisternal puncture, extradural anesthesia or caudal blocks. It probably will have little to offer to the well-trained physician anesthetist. It should be of real value to those beginning their training in anesthesiology, as well as to those surgeons who, through varying circumstances, administer their own spinal analgesia.

The excellent illustrations and the clear description of technique should make this book valuable to all physicians who perform lumbar punctures, and it will be especially helpful to those training in neurology, neurosurgery, orthopedics, and radiology.

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PHYSICAL METHODS IN PHYSIOLOGY—W. T. Catton, M.Sc. Physiology Department, Kings College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Philosophical Library, Inc., 15 East 40th St., New York City 16, N. Y., 1957. 375 pages, $10.00.

Here is a very easy-reading, non-"stuffy" book packed with vital basic facts about physical problems and methods in better understanding and application of physiology.

Certainly, the contents are highly technical, but the reader does not lose the major objective of the discussion in favor of rhetoric. It is well written.

Students of medicine can use this handy volume with its accurate information, to the point and at the same time presenting a definite "feeling" for the clinical problems which are implied by the subjects.

Seven vital chapters give an excellent basic overview of the physical problems of Blood, the Circulation, Respiration, Muscle, Peripheral Nerve, the Physical Basis of Body Heat Exchanges, and Electronics in Physiology.

A clear and concise section on sedimentation rate gives the reader the tools he needs for better interpretation and evaluation of his laboratory work. Speculation is absent. Another example is how "the effects of gravity" on circulation section explains why many patients faint during an upper G.I. series and other tests where the body is maneuvered. Effects of acceleration on circulation described here can be easily applied to aviation and space travel medicine.

Although the title might imply this book to be for researchers in physiology, I can honestly say clinicians will enjoy its contents.

HARLAND GOLDWATER, M.D.